

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2011/09/14 : CIA-RDP80-00809A000600380199-0

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At the same time, there was a complete change in the heat treatment of tool joints. This new technique eliminated two highly labor-consuming operations: zinc coating the threads and sand blasting. All quenching baths were fitted with mechanized platforms, freeing many workers.

As part of general reorganization of the production setup, the manufacture of small-diameter drills and tool joints has been transferred to separate shops.

Specialization in the tool-joint shop has made it possible to institute assembly-line production, and to raise the economic and technical work indexes.

Following up the increased demand for tool joints, the Ministry of Petroleum Industry at the end of 1949 considered it necessary to enlarge the plant, so that it would be able to run production of tool joints 70 percent above the 1949 level. It was estimated that this would cost several million rubles, but the management met the task through utilization of productive reserves. Putting advanced technology into production cycle, and broadening the sphere of mechanized operations, the productivity of labor was boosted and costs of production were cut. Besides improving the quality of products, the plant attained a 68-percent increase in the output of tool joints by January 1950. This was accomplished at a very small capital outlay. The Five-Year Plan for production of drilling equipment was more than doubled by the end of 1950. Compared with the first year of the Five-Year Plan, gross production increased $3\frac{1}{2}$ times. Output of three-cone drills increased 4.28 times, and of tool joints, $1\frac{1}{2}$ times. Productivity of labor has grown 2.24 times during the 5-year period.

There had been considerable reduction in labor consumption per item of production. In 1947, for example, it took 99 hours to turn out a drill of 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter, while in 1949, it took only 43 hours to produce it.

Such reduction in labor consumption, together with measures cutting down expenditure of metal and electric energy, have been strong factors in reducing production costs. In 1946, the plant saved 48,000 rubles, while in 1950, above plan accumulation as a result of reducing production costs amounted to 1,220,000 rubles.

Baku, Bakinskiy Rabochiy, 17 Jan 51

The Baku Plant imeni Kirov is producing a new bit, designed originally for use in turbodrills, but suitable for rotary drilling. The new bit has three cones set in a single-part housing. It has performed well on tests with rotary rigs, working under a string load of 14-15 tons. These tests were witnessed by Ferid Melkovich, the chief engineer of the plant, and Boris Nikolayevich Kramarenko, the chief designer.

The plant educational program and the council for invention and rationalization have greatly furthered production and technical accomplishments: During 1950, over 800 workers completed technical training courses, while innovators' suggestions which were put into practice are estimated to have save 2,500,000 rubles during that period.

Baku, Bakinskiy Rabochiy, 17 Jan 51

Bit shop No 2 of the Baku Plant imeni Kirov met its 1950 quota early, putting out hundreds of above-plan bits. Specializing in the production of bits of small diameter, the shop was set up in 1948, and is the newest one in the plant. All its cutting and milling machines are operated under high-speed methods, and shifts are relieved without stopping the machines.

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